

AMENDED CLAIMS

[Received at the International Bureau on January 13, 2005 (13. 01. 2005): The claims 3, 5, 6, 9 and 29 as originally claimed have been amended; others remain intact. (Four pages)]

1. An input device which inputs information into an electronic apparatus, comprising:

a hold member which is held by one hand; and

an operation section which is provided on that portion where said operation section is operable by a tip of a finger of said one hand holding said hold member, changes into plural states when operated with said tip of said finger unreleased, and is for inputting information into said electronic apparatus which detects said plural states.

2. The input device according to claim 1, wherein said operation section is provided approximately perpendicular to an up and down direction of said hold member.

3. (Amended) The input device according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said hold member is coupled to a main body having said operation section, and said main body and said hold member are changeable into open mode in which said hold member can be so held as to make said operation section operable, and closed mode in which said main body and said hold member are folded over each other.

4. The input device according to claim 3, wherein
said main body and said hold member are coupled together via a base member,

said main body and said hold member are rotatably coupled to said base member, and

a rotation axis at which said main body and said base member are coupled together is approximately perpendicular to a rotation axis at which said hold member and said base member are coupled together, and said main body and said

hold member become said open mode of an approximately L shape and closed mode of an approximately parallelepiped shape as said main body and said hold member respectively rotate around said rotation axes.

5. (Amended) The input device according to claim 4, wherein as said main body and said hold member respectively rotate around said rotation axes, said main body and said hold member are changeable into open mode of an approximately L shape in which said hold member can be so held as to make said operation section operable, and closed mode in which said main body and said hold member are folded over each other.

6. (Amended) The input device according to claim 4 or 5, wherein rotation of the rotational axis at which said main body and said base member are coupled together and rotation of the rotation axis at which said hold member and said base member are coupled together are interlocked with each other.

7. The input device according to claim 6, wherein said rotation of said rotational axis at which said main body and said base member are coupled together and said rotation of said rotational axis at which said hold member and said base member are coupled together can be locked and unlocked in said open mode.

8. The input device according to claim 7, comprising an unlock pin which unlock a state where said rotation of said rotation axis at which said main body and said base member are coupled together is locked with said rotation of said rotation axis at which said hold member and said base member in said open mode,

wherein said unlock pin is operable by a tip of any finger of said one hand holding said hold member.

9. (Amended) The input device according to any one of claims 3 to 8, wherein said operation section is provided on top and bottom sides of said main body.

10. The input device according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein said operation section is formed in a shape into which a finger tip fits.

11. The input device according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein said operation section is so formed as to be restricted in parallel movement in accordance with said plural states, and is restorable in a circumferential direction.

12. The input device according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein said operation section has a plurality of switches, and detects said plural states with one of or said plurality of switches.

13. An input device which inputs information into an electronic apparatus, comprising:

an operation section which changes into plural states and is for inputting information into said electronic apparatus which detects said plural states; and

a processor which allocates information codes in association with said plural states of said operation section,

wherein said information codes allocated by said processor are input into said electronic apparatus.

14. The input device according to claim 13, wherein said processor has groups of information codes which are hierarchized in association with said operation section and associated with said plural states of said operation section, and determines one information code based on selection of one group of information codes by detecting any of said plural states of said operation section.

15. The input device according to claim 14, wherein said processor detects one information code by an acceptance-decision operation at said operation section.

16. The input device according to any one of claims 13 to 15, wherein said processor has an information code which is not used in association with said plural states of said operation section.

17. An input device which inputs information into an electronic apparatus, comprising:

an operation section which changes into plural states, and is for inputting

information into said electronic apparatus which detects said plural states; and
a processor which allocates information codes in association with said plural states of said operation sections,

wherein said processor has information codes for replacing some of said information codes.

18. The input device according to any one of claims 13 to 17, wherein said processor ensures external replacement of said information codes.

19. The input device according to any one of claims 13 to 18, wherein said information code comprises a row and a column of Japanese KANA characters.

20. The input device according to any one of claims 1 to 19, comprising a display section which displays said plural states of said operation section, or associations of said plural states of said operation section with said information codes allocated by said processor.

21. The input device according to claim 20, wherein said display section displays said groups of information codes.

22. The input device according to claim 21, wherein said display section displays a direction of a force to be applied to a finger tip for operating said operation section and an arrangement of said groups of information codes in association with each other.

23. The input device according to claim 21 or 22, wherein said display section emphatically displays said selected group of information codes.

24. The input device according to any one of claims 21 to 23, wherein said display section aggregates a candidate table comprising said groups of information codes at a bottom layer, an input-candidate-information code selected from said candidate table, and input-decision-information code decided by said acceptance-decision operation and displays them.

25. The input device according to any one of claims 20 to 24, wherein all of or a part of a display of said display section is displayed on a display section of

said electronic apparatus into which said information code is input.

26. (Amended) The input device according to any one of claims 1 to 25, comprising an analog input section for inputting analog information into an electronic apparatus,

wherein said operation section and analog input section are operable simultaneously.

27. The input device according to any one of claims 1 to 26, comprising fixing means for fixing a writing tool.

28. The input device according to any one of claims 1 to 27, wherein said hold member and said operation section are so provided as to enable an input operation with both hands.

29. (Amended) The input device according to any one of claims 1 to 28, comprising a display section which displays input information, and allowing a lens which magnifies said display section to be provided.

30. The input device according to any one of claims 1 to 29, having a built-in electronic-apparatus function.